

APHIS – Plant Protection and Quarantine
Daily Situation Report: Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM)
 April 16, 2007

Survey and Diagnostics Information:

Counties	Survey		Diagnostics		
	Number of Traps	Number of Positive Traps	Presumptive Positive	Confirmed Positive	
				Today	Total
Alameda	951	61	0	0	76
Contra Costa	1,358	26	0	0	31
Fresno	350	0	0	0	0
Imperial	79	0	0	0	0
Kings	100	0	0	0	0
Los Angeles	793	0	0	0	0
Marin	546	5	0	0	5
Monterey	50	0	0	1	1
Napa	167	0	0	0	0
Orange	567	0	0	0	0
Sacramento	168	0	0	0	0
San Diego	473	0	0	0	0
San Francisco	99	15	0	0	51
San Joaquin	62	0	0	0	0
San Mateo	567	1	1	0	0
Santa Barbara	100	0	0	0	0
Santa Clara	599	2	0	0	2
Santa Cruz	2	0	0	1	1
Solano	418	0	0	0	0
Sonoma	204	0	0	0	0
Sutter	40	0	0	0	0
Yolo	40	0	0	0	0
Yuba	12	0	0	0	0
Total	7,745	110	1	2	167

- **Survey**
 - Survey teams continue to implement a rigorous detection and delimiting survey for the light brown apple moth (LBAM), *Epiphyas postvittana*, in 23 counties.
 - 7,745 traps have been deployed to date, with the majority being placed within a 50-mile radius of the initial LBAM detection. Traps are being inspected bi-weekly.
 - Nurseries located within 1.5 miles from any confirmed LBAM site in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, San Francisco, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz counties are being proactively inspected for the presence of LBAM.

- **Identification and Diagnostics**
 - Trapped moths are forwarded to the California Department of Agriculture's (CDFA) Plant Pest Diagnostics Laboratory for the initial identification. All LBAM "presumptive positive" moths from each county are forwarded to the ARS Systematic Entomology Laboratory (SEL) in Washington, DC, for confirmation. In counties where previous specimens have been confirmed by SEL, subsequent captures are identified by CDFA.
 - A total of 167 moths have been confirmed to date as LBAM from traps in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, San Francisco, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz counties. All but two moths were from traps located within ten miles of the initial find. The other two moths were captured in Santa Clara County from traps located approximately 30 miles from the initial find. Additionally, one moth from San Mateo County has been designated as presumptive positive.

Operational Update:

- **Technical Working Group (TWG)**
 - APHIS has assembled a team of subject matter experts from the United States and New Zealand to discuss and recommend LBAM survey methods, mitigation tools, and eradication strategies.
- **Incident Command**
 - Thirty-six (36) personnel are on-site (32-CDFA/Counties; 4-APHIS) and assuming various roles within the ICS structure.
- **Regulatory Actions**
 - To date, CDFA has issued a total of 30 compliance agreements to establishments (nursery stock and green waste) located within 1.5 miles of any confirmed LBAM site, requiring regular inspections of all nursery stock and report of suspect LBAM to regulatory officers.
 - All host commodities (nursery stock and green waste) must be inspected by CDFA, APHIS, or County officials and found free of LBAM before leaving quarantine areas.
- **Trace-back and Trace-forward**
 - Trace-back and trace-forward investigations to determine the source and potential distribution of LBAM continue, including the inspection of nursery establishments.
- **Treatment**
 - An inspection of one San Francisco nursery on April 2 led to the detection of three larvae on *vinca sp.* plants. Because it is difficult to

determine identification at the larval stage, the plan is to rear the larvae to the adult stage. One additional larva and four pupae were also found during re-inspection on April 4 at the same facility. Post treatment (with Chlorpyrifos) inspection on April 9 resulted in no additional larvae or pupae.

Trade:

- Reports were provided to Canada and Mexico in response to their requests for additional information regarding the LBAM situation, including U.S. quarantine plans and import requirements of host commodities originating from infested areas of the world.

Communication and Outreach:

- Public Information Officers (PIO) and officials from CDFA, APHIS, and Counties continue to field questions from the press and the public regarding the LBAM finds and the regulatory framework.

Background:

- On February 6, 2007, a private citizen near Berkeley in Alameda County, California, reported that two suspect moths had been captured in a blacklight trap on his property.
- In response, pheromone-baited traps were placed on March 1, 2007, in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Trap inspections began March 7, 2007.
- On March 16, 2007, the ARS Systematic Entomology Laboratory (SEL) in Washington, DC, confirmed that the two samples submitted were positive, and validated the results using morphological testing.
- USDA and CDFA issued press releases on March 22, 2007, announcing the confirmation of LBAM in California. APHIS. Also, APHIS issued a SPRO letter informing States and stakeholders of the LBAM in California.
- The light brown apple moth (LBAM), *Epiphyas postvittana*, is a native pest of Australia and is now widely distributed New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Ireland, and New Caledonia.
- Although it was reported in Hawaii in the late 1800s, the LBAM find in California is the first on the US mainland.
- If left uncontrolled, LABM could cause significant damage to many different kinds of plants, including stone fruit (peaches, plums, nectarines, cherries, and apricots), pome fruit (apples and pears), grapes, and citrus.